



Making and Using Magic Paper Clay Patch

Mixing:

1. Break up some of your dry clay body into smallish pieces. They don't need to be teeny tiny, but the smaller they are, the faster your paper clay will mix. Trimmings work great, or roll out some thin slabs of clay, let them dry and roll with a rolling pin to create small pieces.
2. Whatever volume of clay you end up with (I recommend at least a cup of dry clay for easy mixing), add an equal volume of cheap toilet paper (the single ply stuff is the best!). Don't bother to shred up the paper, the stick blender will do the work for you.
3. Add water to the mixture and blend well with a stick blender until you have a homogenous slurry the consistency of thick slip. You can add vinegar instead of water, but I've found that this tends to get really stinky over time – your choice though!

Patching:

1. To use your paper clay, smear a thin layer onto a plaster slab to remove some of the moisture. Ultimately, you want your paper clay to be as close as possible to the consistency of the clay piece that you are patching (while still remaining workable).
2. To patch a crack, scribe it out so you have clean edges. Roll a small coil of paper clay to fit in the gap and pack it into the crack as tightly as possible. I like the Kemper K23 clean up tool for these repairs.
3. Slightly overfill the crack and then burnish back down using the back of the K23 spoon side. You can also scrape back areas if the repair is obvious and burnish again.
4. Use a small amount of water on your finger to smooth the patch into the surrounding clay. Avoid sponging as this will bring the paper fibers to the surface.
5. Depending on the size of the crack, you may need to do this more than once. Use the same procedure as the first repair, trying to remove as little paper clay as possible. I've even successfully patched bisque with paper clay!

